



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #07-022 / 125 / 1015

Monday, June 18, 2007

New initiative **Community speed monitoring program**

Silverdale, Wash. -- Vehicular traffic conditions within residential neighborhoods and the county at large affect the “livability” aspect of any community. We all want to curtail excessive motor vehicle speed in our residential areas, especially on the streets where we live.

Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer recognizes this concern. Law enforcement response to vehicular traffic speed issues are addressed through three response methods: **education, engineering** and **enforcement**.

The Sheriff’s Community Speed Monitoring (COSMO) program is a new initiative that tackles the first two elements: **education** and **engineering**. Sheriff Boyer believes that community & neighborhood involvement is an important aspect for traffic speed reduction. Those who live or work in the project area have the opportunity to become involved in the process.

Goals of the COSMO program:

- Involve area residents in solving traffic problems.
- Discourage undesirable driving behavior.
- Improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Objectives of the COSMO program:

- Encourage citizen involvement.
- Achieve lower vehicular speeds in neighborhoods or residential areas with identified motor vehicle excessive speed issues.
- Improved safety for motorized and non-motorized users.

Program Outline

COSMO begins with neighborhood or community residents identifying vehicular speed concerns and discussing possible solutions from these measures:

- **Increased communications.** Residents are encouraged to communicate with those who live in their neighborhood and discuss the concern of speeding. In most cases speeding is a result of habit, not from an intentional act to break the law. Short term reminders to reduce speed / slow down are effective in getting people to change their driving behavior. Neighborhood associations can distribute flyers asking residents to slow down, drive safely, watch for children, etc. The Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force can provide additional resource information.
- **Brush trimming.** The trimming and removal of brush by homeowners allows for better sight distance and pedestrian mobility.
- **Radar Speed Display Unit.** Residents have an opportunity to check-out a radar speed display unit from the traffic safety task force. One designated person would be responsible for the operation, storage and return of the unit. This radar unit detects the speed of passing vehicles and displays it on a reader board. The unit may be loaned for up to four days.
- **Speed Radar Board.** A sheriff's office vehicle with a speed radar board posted on it can be placed in a specific location. Sheriff's citizens on patrol (COPs) volunteers monitor the radar board. The vehicle mounted display would be in use during times specified, by neighborhood residents, as being the worst for excessive vehicle speeds. This device detects the speeds of passing vehicles and shows the drivers their actual speed versus the posted speed and encourages their compliance.
- **Target enforcement.** Follow-up traffic speed enforcement patrols by sheriff's deputies can be requested through the traffic safety task force.

The COSMO program initiative applies throughout Kitsap County. Community associations or neighborhood residents are encouraged to contact the sheriff's office regarding vehicle speed concerns.

For additional information, or for assistance with implementing the COSMO program within a neighborhood, contact Ms. Carolyn Pence, Coordinator, Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force, at 360-337-4647.

Drive Safe Drive Sober Buckle Up Slow Down

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